

## Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SCS-03 SCA-01 OPR-02 CIAE-00 INR-07  
NSAE-00 MCT-01 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 PRS-01  
DODE-00 /050 W  
-----291530Z 026647 /43

P R 291435Z MAR 77  
FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3296  
INFO AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

CONFIDENTIAL ADDIS ABABA 4757

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: CDES (MCCLURE, DONALD), ET, SO  
SUBJ: DEATH OF AMERICAN MISSIONARY IN GODE AREA-- II

REF: ADDIS ABABA 1803 (NOTAL), ADDIS ABABA 1830

1. EMBOFFS SPOKE WITH DONALD MCCLURE, JR., SON OF  
DECEASED AMCIT DONALD MCCLURE, WHO PROVIDED FOLLOWING  
DETAILS ON GODE RAID. MCCLURE STATED THAT AT APPROXIMATE-  
LY 0130 MORNING OF MARCH 27, HE WAS AWAKENED BY STRANGE  
NOISE AS WAS HIS FATHER. NOISE APPARENTLY CAUSED BY  
CUTTING OF SCREEN DOOR BY ARMED ATTACKERS. ELDER MCCLURE  
OPENED DOOR AND ALLOWED ATTACKERS TO ENTER, WHO APPARENTLY  
KNEW HIS NAME. AT APPROXIMATELY SAME TIME, GRAHAM  
SMITH, AN AUSTRALIAN LIVING WITH HIS FAMILY IN ANOTHER  
HOUSE ON SAME COMPOUND, WAS TAKEN BY ATTACKERS AND HELD  
WITH MCCLURES.

2. MCCLURE INDICATED ATTACKERS COULD BE DIVIDED INTO TWO  
GROUPS. FIRST GROUP, COMPOSED OF FOUR OR FIVE MEN  
DESCRIBED AS "GUERRILLAS" WERE ARMED WITH MILITARY  
TYPE WEAPONS AND ONE RPG. SECOND GROUP, ARMED AND  
ESTIMATED AT 20 PLUS WERE DESCRIBED AS SHIFTAS  
(BANDITS) AND THOROUGHLY LOOTED COMPOUND. BOTH  
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GROUPS WEARING SOMALI GARB AND PRIMARY LANGUAGE  
SPOKEN WAS SOMALI. ATTACKERS SPOKE FEW WORDS OF  
ENGLISH AND ONE ATTACKER REPEATED SEVERAL TIMES IN  
HALTING AMHARIC "I AM AN AMHARA."

3. MCCLURES AND SMITH HELD IN COURTYARD BY  
"GUERRILLAS." APPARENT LEADER SAID SOMETHING TO ONE

OF MEN, RECEIVED QUESTIONING REPLY AND SPOKE AGAIN.  
AT THAT TIME GUERRILLAS FIRED THREE SHOTS AT POINT BLANK  
RANGE, KILLING ELDER MCCLURE. YOUNGER MCCLURE  
WAS NOT HIT, RUINED AND FLED WHILE ATTAKCERS FIRED AT HIM.  
SMITH WAS ENVELOPED BY MUZZLE BLAST AND ALTHOUGH UNHIT, WAS  
KNOCKED DOWN AND FEIGNED DEATH.

4. WHILE MCCLURES AND SMITH BEING HELD BY ONE GROUP,  
REMAINDER OF GROUP ON COMPOUND, CONSISTING OF EIGHT  
WESTERNERS AND FOUR ETHIOPIANS, BEING GUARDED  
SEPARATELY. WHEN FIRING WHICH KILLED MCCLURE BROKE  
OUT, SECOND GROUP OPENED FIRE IN GENERAL DIRECTION OF  
FIRST GROUP APPARENTLY BELIEVING THEY WERE BEING ATTACKED.  
ONE GUARD TURNED AND FIRED AS HE FLED WOUNDING MRS. SMITH IN LEG.  
ALL ATTACKERS THEN FLED.

5. YOUNGER MCCLURE HID IN HILLS FOR NIGHT AND OBSERVED SOME  
FIRING FROM NEARBY ETHIOPIAN ARMY OUTPOST.  
IT DOES NOT APPEAR DEFENDERS LEFT OUTPOST.  
ATTACKING FORCE DID NOT ATTACK OUTPOST, MAIN MILITARY  
POST OR TOWN OF GODE ITSELF. GUARD AT COMPOUND STATED  
FOLLOWING MORNING THAT ONE OF "BANDITS" WAS SOMALI  
KNOWN TO HIM FROM AREA. MCCLURE WAS NOT SURE BUT  
STRONGLY SUSPECTS ATTACKERS MAY HAVE INTENDED KILL  
ENTIRE GROUP OF ELEVEN WESTERNERS AND FOUR ETHIOPIANS.

6. EMBOFF, WHO HAD PREVIOUSLY SCHEDULED MEETING WITH  
SOMALI FIRST SECRETARY, RAISED MATTER INFORMALLY WITH  
HIM DURING MEETING NOTING REPORT THAT RAIDERS WERE  
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"SOMALI FIRST SECRETARY, RAISED MATTER INFORMALLY WITH  
HIM DURING MEETING NOTING REPORT THAT RAIDERS WERE  
"SOMALI," ATTACKERS KNEW MCCLURE US CITIZEN AND THAT  
INCIDENT OBVIOUSLY NOT HELPFUL IN VIEW EFFORTS IM-  
PROVE US-SOMALI RELATIONS. SOMALI FIRST SECRETARY  
APPEARED CONCERNED OVER INCIDENT AND STATED WHILE  
GSDR "OBVIOUSLY HAD NO CONTROL OVER  
SUCH MATTERS" HE WOULD REPORT INCIDENT TO  
MOGADISCIO AND "SEE IF ANYTHING COULD BE DONE."

7. MCCLURE INFORMS US THAT ALL APPROPRIATE PEOPLE  
IN US HAVE NOW BEEN INFORMED. DEPT NEED THEREFORE  
TAKE NO ACTION. IF DEPT IS QUERIED BY PRESS, MCCLURE  
WOULD HAVE NO PROBLEM WITH MENTION OF HIS FATHER'S  
NAME. IF QUERIED HERE, WE PROPOSE CONFIRM MCCLURE'S  
DEATH AND STATE THAT HE KILLED DURING A RAID BY  
UNIDENTIFIED MEN ON HIS MISSION STATION IN VICINITY  
GODE DURING EARLY MORNING HOURS OF MARCH 27.  
EPMG IS AWARE OF INCIDENT.

8. COMMENT: WHILE EVIDENCE CIRCUMSTANTIAL, IT  
WOULD APPEAR "GUERRILLAS" SOMALI EQUIPPED. THEIR  
DISCIPLINE ALSO DISTINGUISHES THEM FROM "BANDITS"  
WHO PROBABLY OGADEN SOMALIS.

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## Message Attributes

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**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
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